

Report on AAS "Meeting-in-Meeting" Boston MA, June 3-4, 2014

On the Shoulders of Giants: Planets Beyond the Reach of Kepler

Organizer:

Steve Unwin

Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology

AFTA SDT Meeting, Columbia, MD, July 29-30, 2014

Meeting Objectives

• Scientific objectives:

- Review the theoretical reasons why we need to study planets beyond 1 AU
- Integrate what we learn from those interior to 1 AU
- Review what we know now from current experiments, and what we still need to know
- Look to the future to see what opportunities there are in the near and further future, including AFTA (and Probes)

Programmatic objectives:

- Increase community awareness and support for the exoplanet science objectives of AFTA
- Provide an opportunity for input to the AFTA science program, for the Final Report due in January 2015

Meeting-in-Meeting SOC



ExoPlanet Exploration Program

- Stephen Unwin (JPL, Chair)
- David Spergel (Princeton)
- Neil Gehrels (NASA GSFC)
- Scott Gaudi (OSU)
- Jeremy Kasdin (Princeton)
- David Bennett (Notre Dame)
- Bruce Macintosh (LLNL, now at Stanford)
- Tom Greene (NASA Ames)

Session Descriptions: Four 90-minute Sessions



ExoPlanet Exploration Program

- Session I What we know today and what we would like to learn
 - Introduction; current state of theoretical understanding of planets in long orbits - beyond the reach of Kepler
- **Session II** Demographics
 - Demographics of the exoplanet population, based on what we know from RV surveys, Kepler, and microlensing
- **Session III** Ground-based Imaging and Spectroscopy
 - Direct observation of exoplanets with imaging and spectroscopy, and what we learn from debris-disks around planet-bearing stars
- Session IV The Near Future
 - What we can expect to learn about this planet population in the near future.
 In addition to TESS and JWST under development, we also discuss the contributions of AFTA-WFIRST through microlensing and spectroscopy, and the exoplanet Probes

Timeline



- October 2013: Several telecons with SOC to establish scope
- November 2013: Session outline submitted to AAS
- January 2014: Session approved by AAS
- Jan-Feb 2014: Invitations, acceptances, rejections, more invitations, more rejections, more invitations
- February 2014: Confirmed speaker names to AAS; chasing down stragglers
- March 2014: Abstracts due to AAS; more chasing down stragglers
- April 2014: Travel support (only 2 speakers needed support)
- May 2014: Logistics details with AAS
- June 2014: 'Meeting in Meeting"

How did it go?

ExEP

- We had a total of 24 talks
 - 20 invited; 4 contributed
 - No poster session (too few posters submitted)
- Scheduled in the largest conference room
- A/V support from the AAS was excellent
- Each session ran in parallel with <u>5</u> other sessions
- Excellent attendance!
 - Session 1: ~150 people
 - Session 2: ~90 people
 - Session 3: ~80 people
 - Session 4: ~140 people

Presentations on website



ExoPlanet Exploration Program



We have PDFs of almost all the talks on the ExEP website, sorted by session

http://exep.jpl.nasa.gov/
presentations/giantsSession/

Lessons Learned 1



- Meeting objectives were very clearly stated at the outset
 - This greatly helped with invitations, acceptances, rejections
 - Avoided having shifting goals based on responses
- Even a simple meeting like this AAS 'Meeting in Meeting' requires a lead time of ~7-8 months
- Pester prospective speakers relentlessly!
 - It only gets harder to adapt later, if you get rejections
- Don't over-schedule
 - We consciously went for breadth over depth
 - But this could have been accomplished with fewer speakers, each with a broader charter
 - Considerable frustration from some speakers:
 - A 15-minute *invited* talk is pretty short! Some even had to be 10 minutes

Lessons Learned 2



- Once published, the AAS schedule cannot be changed, no matter how hard you try
 - Schedule was frozen in late March
- Balance between the sessions was a headache.
 - Session 3 (ground based) had too many short talks
- Contributed talks were very hard to deal with
 - Either have no contributed talks, or
 - Allow plenty of time to schedule lots
- Make a database of invitations and keep it up to date
 - Essential to managing the detail: changing institutions and email addresses, changing talk titles and durations, session building, etc.
- Arguing with the SOC over the session title was lots of fun, but very time consuming!

Backup



ExoPlanet Exploration Program

Meeting Description in AAS Program

ExoPlanet Exploration Program

What kind of planets lie at orbit radii of 1-2 AU - beyond the reach of Kepler? In the last two decades we have explored a sample of RV-detected planets, discovered distant planets with microlensing, and several hot young planets at large radii have been detected by direct imaging, as well as the debris disks that provide clues to formation and evolution.

In these 4 sessions, we explore the near future, and how we can expect to learn much more about the demographics and properties of cold outer planets. AFTA-WFIRST will open up this area, with a microlensing survey to probe the population of long-orbit planets, and coronagraphy to take images and spectra of large planets in orbits at a few AU. NASA also has probe-scale mission concepts under study for direct imaging and spectroscopy of exoplanets.